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pulmonary disease that has a mortality rate of 50% and results from lung lesions that are caused by a variety of conditions found in trauma patients and in severe burn victims. (Ingram, R.H. Jr., *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine*, 13:1240 (1995)). In ARDS there is an acute inflammatory reaction with high numbers of neutrophils that migrate into the interstitium and alveoli. If this progresses there is increased inflammation, edema, cell proliferation, and the end result is impaired ability to extract oxygen. The exact cause of ARDS is not known. However it has been hypothesized that over-activation of neutrophils leads to the release of linoleic acid in high levels via phospholipase A<sub>2</sub> activity. Linoleic acid in turn is converted to 9,10-epoxy-12-octadecenoate enzymatically by neutrophil cytochrome P-450 epoxygenase and/or a burst of active oxygen. This lipid epoxide, or leukotoxin, is found in high levels in burned skin and in the serum and bronchial lavage of burn patients. Furthermore, when injected into rats, mice, dogs, and other mammals it causes ARDS. With the possible exception of glucocorticoids, there have not been therapeutic agents known to be effective in preventing or ameliorating the tissue injury, such as microvascular damage, associated with acute inflammation that occurs during the early development of ARDS.

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Please replace page 2, lines 21-31, with the following:

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Hypertension is the most common risk factor for cardiovascular disease, the leading cause of death in many developed countries. Essential hypertension, the most common form of hypertension, is usually defined as high blood pressure in which secondary causes such as renovascular disease, renal failure, pheochromocytoma, aldosteronism, or other causes are not present (for a discussion of the definition and etiology of essential hypertension see, Carretero and Oparil *Circulation* 101:329-335 (2000) and Carretero, O.A. and S. Oparil. *Circulation* 101:446-453 (2000)).

Hypertension can also lead to potentially severe complications in human gestation. Pre-eclampsia, eclampsia and pregnancy-induced hypertension (PIH) are characterized by elevated blood pressure, proteinuria and edema. Pregnancy induced hypertension is very

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common in first pregnancies. Although progression to full eclampsia is rare, morbidity and mortality are very high from this disorder.

Please replace page 25, lines 16-26, with the following:

Any of a number of standard assays for determining epoxide hydrolase activity can be used. For example, suitable assays are described in Gill, *et al.*, *Anal Biochem* **131**, 273-282 (1983); and Borhan, *et al.*, *Analytical Biochemistry* **231**, 188-200 (1995). Suitable *in vitro* assays are described in Zeldin *et al.* *J Biol. Chem.* **268**:6402-6407 (1993). Suitable *in vivo* assays are described in Zeldin *et al.* *Arch Biochem Biophys* **330**:87-96 (1996). Assays for epoxide hydrolase using both putative natural substrates and surrogate substrates have been reviewed (see, Hammock, *et al.* *In: Methods in Enzymology, Volume III, Steroids and Isoprenoids, Part B*, (Law, J.H. and H.C. Rilling, eds. 1985), Academic Press, Orlando, Florida, pp. 303-311 and Wixstrom *et al.* *In: Biochemical Pharmacology and Toxicology, Vol. 1: Methodological Aspects of Drug Metabolizing Enzymes*, (Zakim, D. and D.A. Vessey, eds. 1985), John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, pp. 1-93).

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 30, line 27, and ending at page 31, line 4, with the following:

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Generally, to assure specific hybridization, the antisense sequence is substantially complementary to the target sequence. In certain embodiments, the antisense sequence is exactly complementary to the target sequence. The antisense polynucleotides may also include, however, nucleotide substitutions, additions, deletions, transitions, transpositions, or modifications, or other nucleic acid sequences or non-nucleic acid moieties so long as specific binding to the relevant target sequence corresponding to the EH gene is retained as a functional property of the polynucleotide. As one embodiment of the antisense molecules form a triple helix-containing, or "triplex"